

Appln No.: 09/678,357
Amendment Dated: October 24, 2006
Reply to Office Action of April 24, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-13 (canceled)

1 ~~14.~~ (currently amended) A method for diagnosing possible presence of gastritis in a human by evaluating a blood sample, comprising the steps of:

assaying the blood sample for the presence of antibodies specific for H,K-ATPase,

assaying the blood sample for the presence of antibodies specific for Helicobacter pylori,

assaying the blood sample for the concentration of pepsinogen I, and

comparing the presence of H,K-ATPase antibodies, Helicobacter pylori antibodies, and pepsinogen I concentration to the respective values of H,K-ATPase antibodies, Helicobacter pylori antibodies, and pepsinogen concentration of a normal population, and

further comprising the steps of multiplying the concentration level of pepsinogen I by the concentration level of Helicobacter pylori antibodies to get a number, and comparing the number to a number calculated similarly for the normal ~~population:~~ population.

wherein concentrations levels of H,K-ATPase antibodies, Helicobacter pylori antibodies, and pepsinogen I ~~concentration~~ in the sample and the number obtained by multiplying the

Appln No.: 09/678,357

Amendment Dated: October 24, 2006

Reply to Office Action of April 24, 2006

concentration level of pepsinogen I by the concentration level of Helicobacter pylori antibodies that are different from the respective corresponding values in the a normal population are indicative of gastritis.

2 15. (currently amended) The method according to claim 14, wherein the step of determining the concentrations levels of H,K-ATPase antibodies, Helicobacter pylori antibodies, and pepsinogen I, comprises performing immunoassays for detecting H,K-ATPase antibodies, Helicobacter pylori antibodies, and pepsinogen I.

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18-19 (canceled)

3 20. (currently amended) The method according to claim 14, wherein a concentration level of H,K-ATPase antibodies differing from that of the normal population is indicative of an autoimmune corpus atrophy.

4 21. (currently amended) The method according to claim 14, wherein a concentration level of Helicobacter pylori antibodies differing from that of the normal population is indicative of antrum, or pangastritis.
gastritis

5 22. (currently amended) The method according to claim 14, wherein increased concentrations levels of Helicobacter pylori antibodies, and normal to lowered concentrations of pepsinogen I are indicative of atrophy.

Appln No.: 09/678,357
Amendment Dated: October 24, 2006
Reply to Office Action of April 24, 2006

6 ~~23.~~ (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~14~~², wherein very low concentrations of pepsinogen I in combination with increased concentrations ~~levels~~ of H,K-ATPase antibodies are indicative of corpus atrophy.

7 ~~24.~~ (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~15~~², wherein measured concentrations ~~levels~~ of H,K-ATPase antibodies and Helicobacter pylori antibodies which are significantly higher than concentrations ~~levels~~ in a normal population are indicative of gastritis.

25-26 (canceled)

8 ~~27.~~ (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~16~~², wherein a concentration ~~level~~ of H,K-ATPase antibodies differing from that of the normal population is indicative of an autoimmune corpus atrophy.

9 ~~28.~~ (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~17~~², wherein a concentration ~~level~~ of Helicobacter pylori antibodies differing from that of the normal population is indicative of antrum gastritis; or pangastritis.

10 ~~29.~~ (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~18~~², wherein increased concentrations ~~levels~~ of Helicobacter pylori antibodies, and normal to lowered concentrations of pepsinogen I are indicative of atrophy.

11 ~~30.~~ (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~19~~², wherein very low concentrations of pepsinogen I in combination with increased concentrations ~~levels~~ of H,K-ATPase antibodies are indicative of corpus atrophy.

31. (canceled)

Appln No.: 09/678,357

Amendment Dated: October 24, 2006

Reply to Office Action of April 24, 2006

12 32. (currently amended) The method according to claim 14, wherein measured concentrations ~~levels~~ of H,K-ATPase antibodies and Helicobacter pylori antibodies which are significantly higher than concentrations ~~levels~~ in the a normal population are indicative of gastritis.

33-43. (canceled)

Appln No.: 09/678,357
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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1-4. These sheet replace the original sheets. The drawings have corrected margins, individual figure numbers and improved quality as required in the form 948.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (4)